

**WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

- 1           1.     A method for accessing services and applications offered by a network  
2 service provider (NSP), comprising:  
3                 communicating IP packets between a service subscriber device and a server  
4 over a public physical access transmission medium that is operated by the NSP;  
5                 providing a unified interface to the service subscriber device for selecting  
6 one or more NSP services or applications;  
7                 manipulating service variables associated with the selected NSP services or  
8 applications; and  
9                 accessing the selected NSP services or applications, using the manipulated  
10 service variables.  
11  
12           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the public physical access transmission  
13 medium comprises at least one of a twisted pair wire, coaxial cable, optical  
14 fiber, and radio frequency spectrum.  
15           3.     The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of services or applications  
16 comprises at least one of data communications, information access, voice  
17 over IP, service management, unified communications, billing, VPN, 800-  
18 Data, on-line subscription, conferencing, calling card, unified messaging,  
19 transit carrier selection; and transport service selection.  
20           4.     The method of claim 1, wherein manipulating service variables is associated  
21 with selecting, changing, combining the NSP services or applications.  
22           5.     The method of claim 1, wherein the variables associated with the plurality of  
23 services or applications are interdependent.

- 24 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the IP packets between the service  
25 subscriber device and the server are communicated via a NSP router.
- 26 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the service subscriber device runs a browser  
27 interface.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the service variables are manipulated for the  
2 selected NSP service or application per session.
- 3 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the unified user interface provides a single  
4 password for authenticating access to the plurality of NSP services or  
5 applications.
- 6 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the servers is a third-party service provider  
7 server.
- 8 11. The method of claim 1, wherein an IP session is realized by means of a  
9 private IP address assigned to the user device by the NSP.
- 10 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the IP is assigned by the NSP dynamically  
11 using at least one of an IP Configuration Protocol (IPCP) in PPP and  
12 Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol.
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